



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

July 8, 2021

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter supporting the application of Kern County Hospital Authority for the second round of funding from the Federal Communications Commission's COVID-19 Telehealth Program.

This effort builds on the initial success of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program, in which the Commission awarded \$200 million to 539 winning applications to help with the rapid expansion of telehealth and connected care services provided in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In December 2020, Congress appropriated an additional \$249.95 million to the program under the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, along with specific statutory provisions regarding its implementation during the second round.

Pursuant to Congress' directives, the Commission sought comment on and adopted rules regarding the metrics used to evaluate applications, which, pursuant to statutory direction, consider whether a health care provider filed an application, but did not receive funding, during the initial round of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program. The nine additional application metrics that the agency adopted take into consideration objective factors about the health care providers, including whether they qualify as a critical access hospital and if they are located in a Tribal, rural, or low-income area. Pursuant to congressional direction, funding will be awarded to a health care provider in each state, as well as each territory and the District of Columbia. The Commission adopted the policies for the second round on March 30 and on April 15 announced a 7-day application window, which opened at 12:00 pm ET on April 29 and closed at 12:00 pm ET on May 6, 2021. Applications are currently under review.

The application of Kern County Hospital Authority was timely received and is under review, and we appreciate your statement of support. All applications will be scored using the same objective criteria by relying on publicly available data. In addition, all applicants will receive a status update when the Commission announces the funding awards from the initial commitment phase, which will total at least \$150 million. Applicants that were not funded during the initial commitment phase will have 10 days to supplement their application. After these supplemental submissions have been reviewed, the remaining applications will be re-ranked and funded from highest to lowest score until all program funds are exhausted.

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I hope this information is helpful. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jessica Rosenworcel